What is claimed is

1. A network element comprising first and second redundant signal paths carrying first and second redundant signals, respectively; a selector for selecting either of the two redundant signals as active; and first and second monitors coupled to the first and second signal paths, respectively; wherein said selector is controlled by the monitors, wherein
said monitors are transition monitors for monitoring said first and second signals for bit level transitions; and in that said selector is controlled by the transition monitors to alter selection in the event that the selected signal does not contain bit level transitions while the non-selected signal does.

2. A network element according to claim 1, comprising first and second delay elements of substantially N bit depth coupled to said first and second signal paths, respectively, wherein said selector is controlled to alter selection when the selected signal does not contain bit level transitions for a bit sequence of N bits while the non-selected signal does contains bit level transitions in the same interval.

3. A network element according to claim 1, further comprising first and second frame monitors for monitoring said first and second signals, respectively, for the presence of predefined signal patterns, wherein said signals appear to be valid if said predefined bit pattern is detected and

wherein switch-over from one to the other signal according to detection of bit level transition is enabled only, if both signal copies appear to be valid.

4. A network element according to claim 1, further comprising a timer, wherein switch-over from one to the other signal according to detection of bit level transition is enabled only if after lapse of said timer the condition persists that the selected signal does not contain bit level transitions.

5. A network element according to claim 1, further comprising pull-up or pull-down circuits for pulling a failed signal to a predefined level.

6. A selection circuit adapted to be used in a network element comprising first and second redundant signal paths carrying first and second redundant signals, respectively, said circuit comprising a selector for selecting either of the two redundant signals as active and first and second monitors adapted to be coupled to the first and second signal paths, respectively; wherein said selector is controlled by the monitors, wherein
said monitors are transition monitors for monitoring said first and second signals for bit level transitions; and in that said selector is controlled by the transition monitors to alter selection in the event that the selected signal does not contain bit level transitions while the non-selected signal does.

7. A method of controlling selection of either of first and second signals from first and second redundant signal paths in a network element, said method comprising the steps of

- selecting either of the first and second redundant signals as active signal;
- monitoring said first and second signals for bit level transitions; and
- altering selection in the case that the selected signal does not contain bit level transitions while the non-selected signal does.